

22788

I CLAIM:

1 1. A method of making a workpiece having regions of
2 different ductility, the method comprising the steps of:
3 coating opposite faces of a flat sheet-metal workpiece
4 of low ductility;

5 stripping the coating from the faces in one region of
6 the workpiece while leaving the coating on the faces in another
7 region of the workpiece;

8 deforming the workpiece into a three-dimensional
9 profile; and

10 heating and thereby hardening only the one uncoated
11 region of the workpiece while not significantly heating the other
12 coated region of the workpiece.

1 2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the flat
2 sheet-metal workpiece is coated by galvanizing.

1 3. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the coating
2 is stripped by brushes.

22788

1 4. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the steps of
2 deforming and heating take place simultaneously.

1 5. A method of making a motor-vehicle B-column having
2 regions of different ductility, the method comprising the steps
3 of:

4 cutting a flat plate workpiece from a strip of sheet
5 steel of low ductility;

6 hot coating opposite faces of the plate workpiece with
7 zinc;

8 stripping the zinc coating from the faces in one region
9 of the workpiece while leaving the coating on the faces in
10 another region of the workpiece;

11 deforming the workpiece into a three-dimensional
12 profile; and

 heating and thereby hardening only the one uncoated
region of the workpiece while not significantly heating the other
coated region of the workpiece.